

Further Details

Calls Hearst Policy After

U. S. Joined War Un-American

Continued from page 1

statement in regard to a pamphlet, "The Chicago Tribune's Record," which had been offered. They charged that this had been got up in connection with a suit brought against "The Chicago Tribune" by Henry Ford for \$100,000, and denied that it was a fair statement of their record. Chairman Overman explained that the pamphlet was not to go into the record, but that Major E. Lowry Hume, counsel for the committee would use it as a guide in looking over the paper to see if there were propagandist editorials which should be recorded.

To prove the charge that William Bayard Hale had received money from Germany, as in addition to having a contract with the German government, during the time he was writing for the Hearst papers, Captain Lester read parts from the statement of Louis Durant Edwards, Hale's secretary, and a Hearst employee. These extracts showed that the German government had paid the expenses of a trip by Hale and Edwards to Rumania, and that their passports had been marked "Employed by the Foreign Office."

Cartoons Hit at Allies
Captain Lester's testimony in regard to the Hearst editorial policy and the intention and effect of the cartoons and editorials in his papers came largely under questioning of Senator Sterling, of South Dakota. The Senator, with Hearst's cartoons, which the captain characterized as "one of the most effective forms of propaganda that has ever been used," asked the Senator, "What would you say would be the natural effect of a cartoon of that kind?"

A second cartoon, taken from the "Deutsches Journal" on June 13, 1917, shows Uncle Sam, Columbia, the "Geldteufel" ("money devil") and the British lion. The legend under the cartoon is:

"THE LIONS SHARE."
England is attacked
Columbia standing at the window with a sign board "WAR LOANS TO BE HAD HERE." He is pouring her savings into the hat of the UNCLE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD, while the British lion is gathering into the English crown the gold falling through the holes in Uncle Sam's hat. The hats of Belgium, France and Italy have been filed up and the Russian bear and Japan are coming to get their shares. "Greed" remarks: "Now there will soon be no more poor devils."

What would you say might be the effect of a cartoon like that upon the popular mind, and what was the purpose of publishing such a cartoon?"

Captain Lester—The effect on the mind would be that the American people were being used by the Allies, that the only interest that the Allies had in the United States was the money that they could get out of her, and if taken literally or believed, a man who was on the point of subscribing to Liberty bonds, and that cartoon was placed in front of him on the street cars as he came to his office, the thought would go through his mind, "Well, after all, I think that I am being used personally, so I won't subscribe. I am not going to waste my hard earned money for people that are fishing for it."

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and feed hungry and bankrupt England, hungry and bankrupt France, hungry and bankrupt Italy.

"All the Allies are begging us for cash."

The German Empire went into this war with more than half the wealth of England and France. Germany has managed to get along without help. France is now begging for millions. We do not understand why England, with much more wealth and income than either Germany or France, must be handed a scotch shovel and be told to help herself to our money.

"What would you say would be the effect, if believed, of that article so far as creating distrust or suspicion for England is concerned?"

Tricked to House Break
Captain Lester: Well, the effect of that article, if believed, would be an absolute severance of any commercial or financial relations with England, and refusal on the part of every American, through public taxes or otherwise, to contribute to the financial needs of England or the Allies."

ENATOR STERLING—And this? "Our only correct strategy is to spend all our money and all our labor in preparing our navy and our armies here at their natural base and so compelling Germany, if she wants to fight, to come to us, and see how she likes the taste of our granite."

"To throw away our strategic advantage by sending our navy and our armies away from their home base to be parts of an European offensive which has practically broken down is a blundering proposal that would not only cost us money, but that it would cost us dear if we accepted it."

"Our money, like our armies and our fleets, should be concentrated at our home base and not dispersed abroad."

SENATOR NELSON—Is that in "The American?"

SENATOR STERLING—"The American" of May 17, 1917. I would like to ask Captain Lester if the natural effect of that, if believed, would not be to prevent any effective participation in this war on the part of America?"

CAPTAIN LESTER—Yes, sir, without a question that was the purpose of that.

SENATOR STERLING—I call to your attention an article in "The American" as late as July 5, 1917:

"We can imagine no statesmanship more futile than for us to exhaust our wealth, to endanger our prosperity and to sacrifice our young men, not to equalize and stabilize the personal relations of the world, but to throw down one power on the ground that it is a threat to the domination of the world and then to place another power in the seat of world empire and world dominion."

"To what other power is a reference there made, in your opinion, from the previous excerpts which I have read?"

CAPTAIN LESTER—It is an obvious reference to England.

SENATOR STERLING—And what is believed, on any one in America in regard to our ally, England?

CAPTAIN LESTER—The obvious effect would be to create distrust and lack of support to the Allies.

SENATOR STERLING—And what effect would that most likely have on the war and the vigorous and successful prosecution of the war if distrust of our principal ally was created?"

CAPTAIN LESTER—It would have the effect of deterring any alliance or association with England or the Allies.

SENATOR STERLING—My attention has been called, Captain Lester, to an issue of "The American" of April 25, 1917, and I read from the editorial:

"Some of the blunders in our explanation and, we fear, in process of commission are, first, the loan of lished revolutionary Germany to Russia, which may vanish any day in the storms of counter revolution, which is the second, the complete subordination of preparedness for America's defense to supplying England's frantic demands for help, and, third, the steady enrichment of the United States in the well of European intrigues and ambitions, against which Washington so wisely warned us when living and would warn us if he were alive to-day."

"The painful truth is that we are being practically used as a mere re-enforcement of England's warfare and England's future aggrandizement, and to all intents and purposes are simply assuming the rôle of another Canada and another Australia—a crown colony rushing to lay all its resources and risk all its own safety for the sake of the Empire."

"It is not pleasant to have to say these things, but they are talked of everywhere among the people, and are the fundamental reasons why the war does not get along any faster among the people."

"We say plainly in Washington that the whole people are ready to back up solidly, with all possible enthusiasm and with all their resources, to the last dollar and the last man, AN AMERICAN WAR FOR THE RIGHTS AND HONOR OF AMERICA, but that the majority, and the vast majority, too, are not disposed, to put it very mildly, to be enthusiastic over financing a war for England, to save England from the fate, to reestablish her insolent tyranny over the seas, that should be forced to put our navy at her disposal, to strip our own people food for her, neglect our own defence against terrible dangers that may come in order that England may be safeguarded with American money, American money, American resources and everything that is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO OUR OWN DEFENSE AND SAFETY."

"Had that been published before we entered the war how would you characterize it, Captain Lester, as pro-German or not?"

CAPTAIN LESTER—The editorial policy of "The New York American" or rather Hearst publications so far as it was formed apparently from information furnished by Dr. William Bayard Hale, while he was in Germany, acting for the Hearst papers, was an editorial policy that was made and formulated in Germany, intended and designed to be spread through the Hearst publications in this country, and this information was sent out by Dr. Hale under the control of the German government. If there had been in Dr. Hale's telegrams, which were sent to the Hearst papers, one scintilla of criticism of the German empire, or the German war policy, or the Kaiser or anything which hinted at remarks and statements reflecting upon Mr. Wilson's administration, Mr. William Bayard Hale would have been guilty of a crime under the laws of Germany and would have been dealt with summarily without a question.

SENATOR STERLING—Since this was published after we entered the war, and since it is a bitter attack upon England, and intended to create suspicion and distrust of England, our principal ally in the war, would it be said to be other than simply pro-German?"

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